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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
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| 10/788,916 | 02/27/2004 | Jon Washington | D-1208 | 7498 |
| 28995 | 7590 | 07/14/2004 | EXAMINER PAIK, STEVE S | |
| RALPH E. JOCKE 231 SOUTH BROADWAY MEDINA, OH 44256 | | | ART UNIT 2876 | PAPER NUMBER |

DATE MAILED: 07/14/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application N .

10/788,916

Applicant(s)

WASHINGTON ET AL.

Examiner

Steven S. Paik

Art Unit

2876

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 February 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 45-62 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 45-62 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 27 February 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. Receipt is acknowledged of the Preliminary Amendment filed February 27, 2004. The Amendment includes cancelled claims 2-44, amended claim 1, and newly added claims 45-62.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1 and 45-62 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Coutts (US 5,563,393) in view of Haycock (US 6,065,672).

Re claim 1 and 55, Coutts discloses a plurality of automated teller machines (ATMs) in an ATM network (Fig. 1). Each of the ATM (10) includes a plurality of currency cassettes (col. 6, ll. 8-10) for holding supplies of currency notes. Each of cassettes includes at least one data indicator (cassette present sensors 42 and cassette low sensors 44) indicating data representative of a characteristic of cassette currency (presence of currency cassette and detection of the supply level of currency quantity in the cassette). The ATM further includes at least one cassette reader (interface device 12) for remotely reading the data of a data indicator (any of data indicators 22-44) without contact therebetween.

Coutts suggests tracking the levels of currency in the currency cassette, but does not explicitly disclose tracking the amount of currency in at least one of the ATMs in real time.

Haycock discloses a method and system for currency distribution, tracking and management utilizing a unique standardized cassette (100). Each cassette contains a smart card (110) capable of storing electronic data reflecting the note history for all the notes found within the cassette. Data can be downloaded to or uploaded from the smart card via an appropriate coupling device in various known methods. The cassettes may be color-coded to easily identify the denomination contained therein, and the smart card is capable of providing detailed distribution and tracking information of each note in real time. The standardized currency cassettes containing smart cards have advantages of improved efficiency of replenishing currency due to the color-coded and standard sizes. The cassettes further provide automated distribution history of each note resulting efficient detection of possible counterfeits.

In view of Haycock, it would have been obvious to an artisan of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to further employ a real time currency tracking cassette in addition to the automated teller machine of Coutts due to the fact that more data related to the distribution and tracking information of currency can be processed in real time for the purposes of improving the replenishing process of currency and other consumable items and detecting the activities of perpetrators creating counterfeits. Furthermore, such modification of employing a standardized currency cassette with a smart card to the teachings of Coutts would have been an obvious matter of design variation, well within the ordinary skill in the art, and therefore an obvious expedient.

Re claim 45, Coutts in view of Haycock discloses the system as recited in rejected claim 1 stated above, wherein the network can track the amount of currency in each automated banking machine in the network (col. 1, ll. 5-10 of Haycock).

Re claim 46, Coutts in view of Haycock discloses the system as recited in rejected claim 45 stated above, wherein the network can determine the amount of currency in the network (col. 2, ll. 43-60 discloses a plurality of ATMs in a form of a network).

Re claim 47, Coutts in view of Haycock discloses the system as recited in rejected claim 46 stated above, wherein the network is operative to provide currency information in real time (col. 5, ll. 45+).

Re claim 48, Coutts in view of Haycock discloses the system as recited in rejected claim 1 stated above, wherein the network includes at least one computer (Fig. 2 of Coutts; col. 4, ll. 10+ suggests the centralized data management system comprising a computing means for updating note circulation history and other currency related information).

Re claim 49, Coutts in view of Haycock discloses the system as recited in rejected claim 48 stated above, wherein each automated banking machine includes at least one computer (Fig. 2 of Coutts discloses a CPU 45).

Re claim 50, Coutts in view of Haycock discloses the system as recited in rejected claim 49 stated above, wherein the network is operative to communicate with each automated banking machine (Fig. 4 of Coutts).

Re claim 51, Coutts in view of Haycock discloses the system as recited in rejected claim 50 stated above, wherein the communication involves the Internet (It is well known that ATMs are connected to a proprietary network of a financial institution as well as the Internet for convenient usages of its users and operators).

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Re claim 52, Coutts in view of Haycock discloses the system as recited in rejected claim 1 stated above, wherein at least one data indicator includes data representative of the value of currency in a cassette (color coding; col. 4, ll. 27-42).

Re claim 53, Coutts in view of Haycock discloses the system as recited in rejected claim 1 stated above, wherein at least one data indicator includes data representative of the amount of currency in a cassette (tracking of individual notes; col. 4, ll. 27-42).

Re claim 54, Coutts in view of Haycock discloses the system as recited in rejected claim 1 stated above, wherein the at least one cassette reader (interface device 12; col. 2, ll. 42+) is operative to remotely read the data of a data indicator using a radio frequency.

Re claim 56, Coutts in view of Haycock discloses the system as recited in rejected claim 55 stated above, wherein (b) includes remotely reading the data of each data indicator of each automated banking machine (via the interface device 12 in RF communication).

Re claim 57, Coutts in view of Haycock discloses the system as recited in rejected claim 56 stated above, wherein (c) includes determining the amount of currency in each of the automated banking machines (col. 1, ll. 5-10 of Haycock) using the data read in (b).

Re claim 58, Coutts in view of Haycock discloses the system as recited in rejected claim 57 stated above, further including (d) determining the amount of currency in the network (col. 2, ll. 43-60 of Haycock discloses a plurality of ATMs in a form of a network).

Re claim 59, Coutts in view of Haycock discloses the system as recited in rejected claim 58 stated above, wherein (d) includes tracking the amount of currency in the network in real time (col. 5, ll. 45+).

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Re claim 60, Coutts in view of Haycock discloses the system as recited in rejected claim 55 stated above, wherein each automated banking machine includes at least one cassette reader (interface device 12), wherein the at least one cassette reader is operative to remotely read the data of a data indicator without contact therebetween (RF communication technique) , and wherein (b) includes remotely reading the data of each data indicator (such as sensor signals 22-44) of each automated banking machine without contact between a data indicator and a cassette reader.

Re claim 61, Coutts in view of Haycock discloses the system as recited in rejected claim 60 stated above, wherein the at least one cassette reader (interface device 12) is operative to remotely read the data of a data indicator using radio frequency, and wherein (b) includes remotely reading the data of each data indicator of each automated banking machine using radio frequency (col. 2, lines 43+ of Coutts).

Re claim 62, Coutts in view of Haycock discloses the system as recited in rejected claim 55 stated above, wherein the network includes a host computer (col. 4, ll. 10+ of Haycock suggests the centralized data management system comprising a computing means for updating note circulation history and other currency related information), wherein each automated banking machine includes a computer (Fig. 2 of Coutts) and further including (d) communicating between the host computer and at least one automated banking machine computer (The centralized data management system is always in communication with ATMs and/or other currency management system.).

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Conclusion

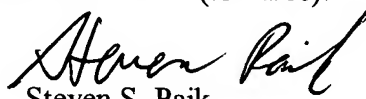
4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Hutchison (US 4,992,648) discloses a currency cassette in a data transfer system; Forrest (US 5,719,383) discloses a transaction terminal such as an automated teller machine comprising cash dispenser unit, a central processing unit, and other sensing units for optimizing the operation of the ATM.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Steven S. Paik whose telephone number is 571-272-2404. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon - Fri (5:30am-2:00pm).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael G. Lee can be reached on 571-272-2398. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Steven S. Paik
Examiner
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